

**Remarks By Mr. Akira Ouchi, Consul-General Of Japan In Karachi At The
Conferment Of Japanese Consul-General's Certificates Of Commendations
On Mr. Abdul Karim Khan, Mr. Yusuf Hussain Shirazi, Mr. Sohail Pervez
Ahmed And Prof. Rais Alvi**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum

It gives me a great pleasure to confer my Certificates of Commendations on Mr. Abdul Karim Khan; Mr. Yusuf Hussain Shirazi; Mr. Sohail Pervez Ahmed and Professor Rais Alvi for their valuable contributions to the promotion of bilateral friendly relations and mutual cooperation between Japan and Pakistan for many years. These certificates are a strong recognition of the services rendered by all of them in strengthening economic, business, cultural and literary ties and deepening mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Pakistan with great respect.

Let me introduce to you the outline of their honorable contributions...

Mr. Abdul Karim Khan is the pioneer of horticultural and landscape activities in Pakistan. Mr. Khan's prolific career has been spanned over more than seven decades with many of the most prominent government and private projects to his credit. Mr. Khan introduced and designed some of the earliest Japanese gardens in the country and has been playing an influential role in promoting Japanese horticultural beauty among the Pakistani people.

Mr. Yusuf Hussain Shirazi founded the Atlas Group which deals in engineering, power generation, financial services and trading. In 1962, Mr. Shirazi signed the joint venture agreement with Mr. Soichiro Honda, founder of Honda Motor Company Limited and set up a motorcycle manufacturing plant in Karachi. Since then, the Atlas Group has been manufacturing Honda cars and motorcycles of high quality and has also actively constituted business partnerships with other Japanese companies.

Mr. Shirazi played a founding role in the establishment of Pakistan-Japan Business Forum and has always been supportive of JICA and JETRO initiatives in Pakistan and has greatly contributed to the promotion of economic and business relations between Japan and Pakistan.

Mr. Sohail Pervez Ahmed, Vice Chairman of House of Habib and Chairman of Pakistan Japan Business Forum, has taken many initiatives to strengthen economic and business relations between the two countries and facilitated the Japanese companies in their business activities in Pakistan and organized Pakistani business missions to Japan. Mr. Ahmed is also keen on promoting Japanese way of management through arranging seminars and training workshops by Japanese specialists and has greatly contributed to the promotion of economic and business relations between Japan and Pakistan.

Professor Rais Alvi is currently serving as Director of Khadim Ali Shah Bukhari Institute of Technology. Prof. Alvi had taught Urdu language and literature at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies from 1985 to 1989 and has been making valuable contributions for cultural and literary exchanges between Japan and Pakistan. Prof. Alvi's works include translations from *Manyoshu*, *Sankashu* and *Okuno Hosonichi*, the oldest collections of poetry in Japan. In addition to these, Prof. Alvi has also edited Japanese-Urdu dictionary.

Finally, I would like to extend my felicitations to all the recipients and would express my gratitude for their contributions to cultivating flourishing relationship between the two countries. I would conclude my remarks by hoping that the economic and cultural relations and people-to people exchange between Japan and Pakistan will be further promoted through our mutual efforts.

Thank you very much

Bahot Shukria